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Essex, Ct. 06426  
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I am Mary Ann Pleva of Essex and I write in support of senate bill # 278

I have been involved in public access TV for many years. In the 1980's I served as Executive Director of Windsor's public access television station, WIN-TV. Then in its infancy, this new station quickly rose to meet the needs of the community. We created and aired programming, shared ideas, provided training workshops and kept the community informed of local matters of interest.

After moving to Essex in 2002 and becoming involved in the Essex Historical Society, I was encouraged to create oral histories of community members. I thought working with Valley Shore Community TV would be a good partnership. I began the Looking Back series in 2015. It has been rewarding for all. I am often stopped by strangers who compliment the show's content and mention their enjoyment of public access TV.

At a time when local news is virtually non-existent (newspaper and TV), public access TV is a welcome alternative to commercial television. I consider it of vital importance to maintain our access stations. Public access stations may be the only remaining source for providing local news and entertainment.

Please support Senate Bill # 278 for the continued betterment of all our communities.

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